

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Control. 17800

Rec'd: OCTOBER 24, 1962  
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Info

FROM: ROME

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TO: Secretary of State

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INITIAL REACTION OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) TO CUBA  
BLOCKADE IN PRESS AND PARLIAMENT REFLECTS SKEPTICISM OR  
UNCERTAINTY ABOUT US MOTIVATION AND REAL EXISTENCE OF  
OFFENSIVE, NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CUBAN MISSILE BASES. COMMUNISTS  
NATURALLY FEEDING THIS SKEPTICISM PLAYING UP ALLEGED PREVIOUS  
US INTELLIGENCE ERRORS. IMPORTANT WE OBTAIN PROMPTLY BEST  
POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE THESE BASES TO TRY CONVINCE  
PSI LEADERS AND HENCE APPEAL AMONG OTHER THINGS TO THEIR KNOWN  
FIRM OPPOSITION PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR BASES. UNLESS PSI  
SO PERSUADED, IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY SUBJECT TO STRONG  
COMMUNIST PRESSURES, ESPECIALLY WHEN SOVIET POSITION IS  
CLEARER, TO INFLUENCE GOI AWAY FROM SUPPORT FOR US.

IT MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE TO CONVEY SUCH CONVINCING  
EVIDENCE (E.G. PHOTOS, NEUTRAL EYE-WITNESS STATEMENTS) TO PSI  
LEADERS, POSSIBLE NENNI HIMSELF, STRESSING THAT, APART FROM  
RIGHTNESS OF US POSITION, PSI IS, BY OPPOSITION TO US MOVE,  
OPPOSING ONLY SURE WAY TO BLOCK POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF IRBM  
CAPABILITY BY EXTREMELY IRRESPONSIBLE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.  
WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SUCH EVIDENCE, PERHAPS INCLUDING CLEAR  
AND ENLARGED PRINTS OF PHOTOS GIVEN WIRE SERVICES, COULD BE  
MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AS CURRENT CHAMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
DEBATE SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER 25 AND SUCH EVIDENCE WOULD  
BE USEFUL NOT ONLY WITH SOCIALISTS BUT TO REASSURE  
GOVERNMENT PARTIES.

REINHARDT

MRJ

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